



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8
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Phone 800-227-8917
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Ref: 8EPR

July 31, 2006

William and Janese Dirkes
308 Dakota Avenue
Libby, MT 59923

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Dirkes:

I am writing in response to your letter dated July 12, 2006.

I am sorry that your experience with the property cleanup was not entirely positive. We strive to do the best job we can at each property.

All Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) are instructed to go over the site specific work plan with residents, explaining as much as possible the very complicated process of property clean ups. However, at times there is so much information to cover, some things are inadvertently overlooked.

I regret that our inspection and sealing protocols were not adequately explained but they are very important aspects of our residential cleanup program. EPA contractors need to inspect all potential points where contaminated material could leak into the living space, including light/ceiling fixtures, electrical sockets, behind furniture, closets, cabinets, and any other potential breaches into the ceiling or wall. I assure you that protecting your privacy is very important to us; however, we need to make sure that we are as thorough as possible in locating and removing as many potential pathways to exposure for the homeowner.

I spoke to Kim Fox (CDM CIC) and Nic Santos (CDM Oversight) regarding the "lost" key. Apparently the key was never lost, but rather was secured in a key box. Nic Santos was new to the job site and didn't know that there was a key box at his office. Regardless of the status of the key, EPA is willing to reimburse you \$43.94 in the form of a credit at the establishment of your choice.

You expressed concern about EPA contractors driving over the main water shut-off for the property, as marked out by the City of Libby. The average depth of water lines throughout town is approximately 5 feet below ground surface; therefore EPA contractors felt comfortable driving equipment over the area. I contacted the City of Libby employees responsible for marking the utility lines. They said if damage to the water line has occurred, we should expect to see evidence of it within 6 months. If you have a problem with your water connection, please immediately contact me at the EPA office. We will investigate the situation with City of Libby employees and

if they determine that the fault lies with EPA, EPA will be responsible for the necessary excavation and repairs. However, if City of Libby employees find that our work did not cause the damage, you will be responsible for the cost of the excavation and repair.

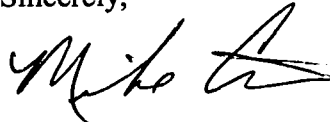
The following were new issues, not previously expressed to your CIC:

1. The third fence post from the SW corner was broken and improperly repaired.
2. The topsoil was improperly graded.
3. You were given sod instead of hydroseed, and the sod was improperly installed.
4. The shed was not replaced in a level manner.

EPA will begin an investigation into the above issues. Kim Fox, your CIC, will contact you to gather more information and we will work with you to resolve these issues.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 406-293-6194.

Sincerely,



Mike Cirian, P.E.
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Senator Conrad Burns
Senator Max Baucus
John Wardell, EPA Region 8 – Montana Office
Kim Fox, CDM Community Involvement Coordinator
Ron Anderson, Lincoln County Sanitarian